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Prayers

OFFERED BY THE CHAPLAIN
REV. ZEBARNEY THORNE PHILLIPS, D.D., L.L.D.
AT THE OPENING OF THE DAILY
SESSIONS OF THE SENATE OF
THE UNITED STATES

DURING

THE SEVENTIETH AND THE
SEVENTY-FIRST CONGRESSES

1927–1931

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UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON : 1931

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 6

SEVENTIETH CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

(Submitted by Mr. CURTIS)

Resolved, That Reverend ZeBarney Thorne Phillips, D. D., of the District of Columbia, be, and he is hereby, elected Chaplain of the Senate.

Adopted December 5, 1927.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 469

(Submitted by Mr. MOSES)

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES, FEBRUARY 17
(CALENDAR DAY, FEBRUARY 26), 1931

Resolved, That the prayers offered by the Reverend ZeBarney T. Phillips, doctor of divinity, Chaplain of the Senate, at the opening of the daily sessions of the Senate during the Seventieth and the Seventy-first Congresses be printed as a Senate document.

Attest:

EDWIN P. THAYER,
Secretary.

Introduction

This is the second time in the history of the Senate when it has ordered the opening prayers of its Chaplain to be printed as a public document. In fact, it is only in recent years that these invocations, except on extraordinary occasions, have been made a part of the proceedings.

Those not familiar with the parliamentary practice should note that it often becomes expedient for the Senate, in order to press its unfinished business to a conclusion, to recess from day to day; and in avoiding the routine and miscellaneous matters, which occupy the time from 12 to 2 o'clock following an adjournment, the services of the Chaplain must be dispensed with.

It will be found that the prayers here published breathe a deep spirit of Christian piety, and their breadth of vision and beauty of expression must be a source of pleasure and profit to all seriously disposed persons.

The custom here established will no doubt be continued in succeeding Congresses, and it is to be hoped that it will tend in no small degree to the betterment of humanity.

CHARLES CURTIS.

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Foreword

The prayers offered in the Senate by its Chaplain, the Reverend ZeBarney Thorne Phillips, D. D., during the Seventieth and the Seventy-First Congresses are printed in this volume under the authority of a Senate resolution.

Following his studies for the ministry at the Theological Seminary in New York City, Doctor Phillips went to Trinity Church, Chicago, Ill., where he remained for six and one-half years. Two years were spent in study at Oxford, England, which gave Doctor Phillips contact with many prominent students and professors and equipped him with an exceptional understanding of subjects for the ministry. After preaching for 10 years in St. Louis and 2 years in Philadelphia he came to Epiphany Church in Washington. While in Philadelphia he was elected bishop coadjutor of Bethlehem, which preferment was declined.

While serving as rector of Epiphany Church Doctor Phillips was elected Chaplain of the United States Senate. As president of the house of deputies of the general convention of the church held in Washington in 1928 and in Denver in 1931 he has demonstrated a thorough knowledge of parliamentary procedure.

The author of the prayers in this volume enjoys the confidence and love of every Senator. His eloquence, dignity, and piety appear from the prayers comprised in this volume, which is designed to preserve them in a convenient form and make them available for the use of the public.

JOE T. ROBINSON.

Prayers

Offered by the Chaplain at the Opening of the Daily Sessions of the Senate of the United States During the Seventieth Congress (1927–1929)

Monday
December 5
1927

Almighty and everlasting God, our Heavenly Father, the Maker and Ruler of all men, who hast made all things for man and man for Thy glory, we commend to Thy gracious keeping the people of these United States. Especially we pray Thy blessing upon the President of these United States, that in his life, his ideals, his wisdom, and discretion he may do only that which is well pleasing unto Thee.

Upon the Vice President, the Presiding Officer of this House, may the especial benediction of Thy grace and guidance of Thy spirit descend. Upon all in authority we invoke Thine especial blessing, especially upon this House, met in solemn assembly at this hour to rededicate anew unto Thee on the altar of their country all that they are and all that they have and all that they hope to be. Enlarge their vision, deepen their sense of righteousness, and may they see that in all they do they are acting in Thy stead and for the safety, honor, and welfare of this Thy people.

May the benediction of the spirit of him who has offered unto Thee the sacrifice of prayer and thanksgiving in this House descend upon us. Guide us, guard us, make us more meet and fit for service not only to our country but in the kingdom of God.

We ask it in the name and for the sake of Him who went about doing good and who taught us when we pray to say:

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on

earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Tuesday December 6 1927

ALMIGHTY GOD, who in the former time didst lead our fathers forth into a wealthy place, give Thy grace, we humbly beseech Thee, to us their children, that we may always approve ourselves a people mindful of Thy favor and glad to do Thy will. Bless our land, defend our liberties, preserve our unity. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion, from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those with whom we intrust in Thy name the authority of governance. In our prosperity fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble suffer not our trust in Thee to fail; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The eternal God is our refuge and underneath are the everlasting arms. Let us pray.

Monday December 12 1927

ALMIGHTY GOD, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Thy Holy Spirit. Make us godly for man's sake and manly for God's sake, that we may live as the sons of God among men. Prosper Thou the consultations of these Thy servants, that whatsoever they do may be done to Thy honor and glory and for the safety and welfare of Thy people everywhere. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

May the words of our mouth and the meditations of our heart be now and always acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, our strength and our Redeemer.

Tuesday December 13 1927

ETERNAL GOD, who hast neither dawn nor evening, yet sendest us alternate mercies of the darkness and the day, there is no light but Thine, without, within. As Thou hast lifted the curtain of night from our abodes, take also the veil from all our hearts. Rise with Thy morning upon our souls; quicken every noble impulse and sanctify our best endeavors; and though all else decline, let the noontide of Thy grace and peace remain. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Whoso dwelleth under the defense of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

Thursday December 15 1927

O GOD, inspirer and teacher of men, send out Thy light and illumine us; give us a deep and clear knowledge of ourselves and help us to a growing knowledge of our world. Confirm in us the holiness of true reason; strengthen in us the aspiration toward noble and spacious thinking; and in Thy good time bring us to Thy holy hill, where, lifted above the clouds of passion and the mists of prejudice, we shall think Thine own thoughts after Thee. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee but to do justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with thy God.

Saturday December 17 1927

ALMIGHTY AND EVERLASTING GOD, who art always more ready to hear than we to pray, and art wont to give more than either we desire or deserve, grant to us, Thy children, such a consciousness of Thy indwelling presence as may give us utter confidence in Thee. In all our doubts and perplexities may we throw ourselves upon Thy besetting care,

that knowing ourselves fenced about by Thy loving omnipotence we may serve Thee always with singleness of heart. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Out of the deep have I called unto Thee, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice.

Monday December 19 1927

ALMIGHTY GOD, who speakest in a thousand voices to the hearts and minds of men, grant to us that we may be taught of Thee, that with understanding hearts we may faithfully perform the duties of this day.

In all our work make us ever mindful of the welfare and the wants of others, knowing that we are in Thy stead.

Save, we beseech Thee, the valiant sons of this Nation imperiled in the great deep, for Thy paths are in the great waters, and even there shall Thy hand lead them. Enfold in Thine arms of love and mercy their loved ones, and by the sacrament of our sorrowing sympathy bring us all to a deeper knowledge and understanding of the mystery of Thine infinite love.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Wednesday December 21 1927

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

O FATHER OF MERCIES AND GOD OF ALL COMFORT, our only help in time of need: Who spakest unto Thy children in the olden time saying, "When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee; when thou walkest through the fire thou shall not

be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee:"

Look with pity, we humbly beseech Thee, upon the sorrows of all Thy children and especially the family, loved ones, and friends of him whom Thou hast tenderly called to Thy side. Grant that his life, so fruitful here, may unfold itself in Thy sight and find sweet employment in the spacious fields of eternity.

And now, Lord, support us all the day long of this troublous life until the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then in Thy mercy grant us a safe lodging, a holy rest and peace at the last. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Wednesday January 4 1928

ALMIGHTY GOD, at whose word man goeth forth unto his work and to his labor until evening, grant that the dawn of this new year may bring Thy blessing as pure and fresh as the dew of the morning. Guide and direct us in our work by Thine own indwelling spirit. Increase and inflame our devotion to Thee and to the welfare of our fellow men. Remove from us all pride, prejudice, and ignorance that we may be a united people worthy of Thy manifold blessings. We ask it in the name and for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

Thursday January 5 1928

O FATHER OF LIGHTS, with whom can be no variation, neither shadow that is cast by turning, send out Thy light and Thy truth that they may lead us. As the duties of another day await us we would thank Thee for Thy loving care of us, for Thy gifts of health and strength, and for the companionship of friends with minds made reverent by honest thought. Give us new hopes and care which may supplant our own too small concerns. Make us too great for narrow creeds of right and wrong, which

fade before our unslaked thirst for good, and grant us peace serene, through Him who is the Prince of Peace, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Monday January 9 1928

ALMIGHTY AND EVERLASTING GOD, who art always more ready to hear than we to pray and art wont to give more than either we desire or deserve, pour down upon us the abundance of Thy mercy and grant to us the spirit to think and do only such things ▪ are right, that we, who can not do anything that is good without Thee, may by Thee be enabled to live according to Thy will, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Wednesday January 11 1928

O LORD GOD, grant to each and all of us to be so true to our high calling here on earth that we may serve Thee with joy and without fear; that when each in his own appointed time shall be summoned to join the great company of departed souls we may pass hence in peace, looking humbly for that fuller light which shall break upon us, when the morning is come upon the unseen shore. Grant this, O Lord, for His sake, who is our life and in whose presence is fullness of joy, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Saturday January 14 1928

ALMIGHTY GOD, whose kingdom is everlasting and power infinite, have mercy upon this whole land, and so guide the destiny of our Nation that the gentleness of Thy omnipotence may be tenderly revealed. Give us understanding hearts and discerning minds, that by our endeavors the safety, honor, and welfare of Thy people may be advanced. Grant that by looking unto Thee our love may be rekindled and by waiting upon Thee our strength may be renewed. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Tuesday January 17 1928

O GOD, who knowest our downsittings and our uprisings, who understandest our thoughts long before, send us forth to our labor with the panoply of Thy love. Make us to be like unto Him who came not to be ministered unto but to minister and to give His life for the world. Imbue us each day with a deeper sense of obligation, a tender pity for those who toil and weep, a noble impatience with the wrong, a reverent approval of the right. Reveal Thyself in every duty of the day and make every common task to glow with the beauty of Thy touch. For the sake of Him who loves us to the uttermost, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Monday January 23 1928

O GOD, who art the author of peace and lover of concord, in knowledge of whom standeth our eternal life, whose service is perfect freedom, defend us this day with Thy mighty power, that all our doings being ordered by Thy governance may be righteous in Thy sight. Send Thy Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love, the very bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whosoever liveth is counted dead before Thee. Grant this for Thine only Son, Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

Wednesday January 25 1928

O GOD, OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, whose gift is length of days, help us to make the noblest use of all our powers in our advancing years. According to our strength apportion Thou our work. Grant to the nations of the world new ties of friendship made ever more secure by the quickening impulse of Thy love stirring in the hearts of men. Remember all who by reason of weakness are overtasked, or because of poverty are forgotten and let the sorrowful sighing of the suffering come before Thee, for the sake of Him who loved us and gave Himself for us, Thy Son our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Friday
January 27
1928

ALMIGHTY AND EVERLASTING GOD, who hast made man but little lower than the angels and has crowned him with glory and honor, giving him dominion over the works of Thy hands, fulfill in us this day Thy prophecy of old. Reveal in us the majesty of human souls which have for home a universe that is one and continuous, the robe of divinity woven without seam throughout. Forgive the impatience of our unbelief and make perfect that which is lacking in our faith, that Thy kingdom may come and Thy will may be done upon earth. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Wednesday
February 1
1928

O GOD, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed, grant to us, Thy servants, that we may think and do only such things as are right and well pleasing in Thy sight. Bring all the nations into Thy fold, and heal all wounds that have been caused by our unhappy divisions. Send us forth with joy to our work and to our labor until the evening, that having served Thee with clean hands, pure hearts, and sound minds, our soul at last may say, "I will lay me down in peace and take my rest; and when I awake I shall be satisfied with His likeness." Grant this, O Father, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Monday
February 6
1928

O GOD, forasmuch as without Thee we are not able to please Thee, mercifully grant that Thy Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts. Look with loving mercy upon the people of these United States. Turn the strivings of men to Thy glory. Purge all our hearts of the evil spirit of selfishness, and grant that as the dim and tangled web of our thought, which but yesterday we carried to our pillow, now stands illumined and unraveled by the touch of day, so may our spirits at last rouse from the overnight dusk of mere mortal experience into the clear shining of the morrow's intuition. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Tuesday February 7 1928

ALMIGHTY GOD, FATHER OF ALL MERCIES, we bless Thee for all that Thou art in Thyself, to us as yet unknown, and for all that Thou revealest from day to day. For every creature that ministers to our need; for our homes, our loved ones, and our friends; for the examples of the past and the counsels of the present; for Thine infinite blessings to our fathers and Thy promises to their children—make us truly thankful. And give us such a sense of all Thy mercies that we may show forth Thy praise, not only with our lips but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to Thy service and by walking before Thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of our life. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Wednesday February 8 1928

GOD OF ALL POWER AND MIGHT, the maker and ruler of men, we commend our Nation to the guidance of Thy wisdom, to the keeping of Thy love. Bless the President of the United States and all others in authority; and so rule the hearts of these Thy servants that they, knowing whose ministers they are, may above all things seek Thy honor and glory. Clothe them with humility, endue them with innocency of life, direct and prosper their deliberations, that all the people of this land may honor them in Thee and for Thee, according to Thy blessed word and ordinance. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Thursday February 9 1928

O LORD, who never failest to help and govern those whom Thou dost bring up in Thy steadfast fear and love, reveal in us the love that seeks and saves, the sacrifice of reconciliation, the very force that vibrates forever across the invisible fabric of the universe out of which the worlds are woven. Thrill into flame the spirits of all great men, that they may shine as beacon lights in the world, and touch into trembling glow ten thousand times ten thousand taper points of that great multitude of

Thy children—the good who are not great. Grant this, O Lord, through Him who is the light of the world, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Monday
February 13
1928

ALMIGHTY GOD, who didst guide our fathers in the founding of this Republic, and hast granted us an heritage of glorious suffering and the strength of chastening trial, make us ever mindful of the loving spirit of him whose name to-day is honored by a grateful Nation. We believe that Thou has appointed us for the protection of the weak and hast given us a potent ministry to all the world. Help us, therefore, to close the wide chasm between the strong and weak, the rich and poor, to cast into it all pride and prejudice, luxury and lust, the insolence of riches with the rancor of poverty, that we may fill it full and make a highway for the King to pass over, and that we may build here the holy city foretold by all Thy prophets since the world began.

Grant this for the sake of Him who became poor that we might be made rich, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Thursday
February 16
1928

ALMIGHTY AND EVERLASTING GOD, our Heavenly Father, who hast led us through storm and sunshine, bringing us in safety to the beginning of this day, let Thy love and patience be shown forth in our lives and conversation, Thy tenderness and compassion in our words and actions. For the duties of this day strengthen us with blessings from on high, that through Thine own enabling power whatever of good has been cast down may be raised up, whatever of truth has grown old may be made new, and that all things may advance unto perfection, when the kingdoms of this world shall have become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever. Amen.

Tuesday February 21 1928

MOST MERCIFUL GOD, who art the fountain of all grace, the source of all wisdom and goodness, give unto us Thy servants the increase of faith, hope, and love, that led by Thy spirit we may find our work a joy, and count all labor light that is undertaken out of love toward Thee. Thou knowest our frame. Thou rememberest that we are but dust. Intensify, therefore, our faith in spite of our frailty, flash upon our inadequacy the sunbeam of hope, and set the bow of Thy love in the cloud of our life, a token of a covenant between heaven and earth, spirit and matter, the warrant of our divine sonship through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Thursday February 23 1928

O GOD, whose nature and property is ever to have mercy and to forgive, receive our humble petitions; and though we be tied and bound with the chain of our sins, yet let the pitifulness of Thy great mercy loose us, that with pure hearts and minds we may serve Thee without hindrance. And as we here invoke the agency of an impalpable influence, the comradeship of the like-minded, the example of our fathers gone before us, grant to us to feel the passion of a high resolve to cherish above all else the glorious destiny unto which Thou hast called us as a Nation. Grant this for the sake of Him whose tender love enfolds us, Thy Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Friday February 24 1928

ALMIGHTY GOD, who in all the ages hast revealed Thy power and mercy in the preservation and protection of those who put their trust in Thee, grant that the people of this land, upon which Thou hast showered Thy blessings, may show forth their thankfulness by a loving obedience to Thy laws. And may these Thy servants, in their every endeavor for the common good, learn to be patient with themselves and with each other.

Make us all to know that as the brooding of the mind is slowly transmuted into the readiness of the will, so the wrestling of the arms of desire importuning a blessing may only slowly become that energy which as a prince has power with God, and thus prevails. Grant this, O Lord, for the sake of Him in whom Thy loving patience is revealed, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Monday
February 27
1928

ALMIGHTY GOD, who alone gavest us the breath of life and alone canst keep alive in us the holy desires Thou dost impart, we implore Thy grace and protection for the ensuing day. Keep us temperate in all things, and make us to be diligent in our several callings, just and upright in all our dealings, quiet and peaceable, full of compassion, ready to do good to all men according to our abilities and opportunities. Defend us from all dangers and adversities; and be graciously pleased to take us and all things belonging to us, and all who are near and dear unto us, under Thy fatherly care and protection. These things, and whatever else Thou shalt see necessary and convenient to us, we humbly beg through the merits and mediation of Thy Son Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Tuesday
February 28
1928

MOST HOLY AND MERCIFUL GOD, the strength of the weak, the rest of the weary, the comfort of the sorrowful, the savior of the sinful, and the refuge of Thy children in every time of need, save us from all pride and self-will, from weakness of judgment, from indecision and infirmity of purpose, from the sluggishness of indolence, from despondency in failure, and from a feeble sense of our duty, that leaning only upon Thee we may here find joy in Thy service, and at last the fruition of all our labors, where mortal and immortal merge and human dies divine. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Wednesday February 29 1928

ALMIGHTY GOD, OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, at this morning hour we render Thee our humble praises for all Thy mercies renewed to us each day. And from our thankful hearts we beseech Thee for all whom we love and upon whom we bestow our watchful care, for all who have blessed us with kindness, led us with patience, and restored us by their sympathy and help, for all who are bearing the burdens of life, for all who are sick and afflicted, and for all who are anguished in spirit, that Thou wouldst make Thy people one in heart and mind and purpose; and that our eyes may kindle to the beauty and glory of America when she looks forth as the morning, fair as the moon and clear as the sun in the splendor of Him who is the light of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Thursday March 1 1928

ALMIGHTY GOD, the fountain of all wisdom, who knowest our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking, have compassion, we beseech Thee, upon our infirmities, strengthen us, we pray Thee, with Thy Holy Spirit, and daily increase in us Thy manifold gifts of grace, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and knowledge and true godliness. And those things which for our unworthiness we dare not and for our blindness we can not ask, vouchsafe to give us for the worthiness of Thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Friday March 2 1928

MOST MERCIFUL GOD, who art of purer eyes than to behold iniquity, and hast promised forgiveness to all who confess and forsake their sins, we bow before Thee in an humble sense of our own unworthiness, acknowledging our manifold transgressions of Thy righteous laws. Reform whatever is amiss in the temper and disposition of our souls, that no unholy thoughts, unlawful designs, or inordinate desires may rest there. Purge our hearts from envy, hatred,

and malice, that we may never suffer the sun to go down upon our wrath, but may always go to our rest in peace, charity, and good will, with a conscience void of offense toward Thee and toward men. Grant this, we beseech Thee, for the sake of Him who is our Master and our Savior, Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord. Amen.

Monday March 5 1928

O GOD OF LOVE, we yield Thee thanks for whatsoever Thou hast given us richly to enjoy, for health and vigor, for the love and care of home, for the joys of friendship, and for every good gift of happiness and strength. And since it is of Thy mercy that this another day is added to our lives, we rededicate unto Thee our spirits, souls, and bodies, humbly beseeching Thee to give us strength for the day's toil, courage in difficulty, guidance in perplexity. Save us from distrust and suspicion, from prejudice and want of sympathy with any of Thy children, from all unholy strife, and from whatsoever in us hinders Thy work on earth, that in fullness of joy we and all the people of this land may walk before Thee with a perfect heart. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Tuesday March 6 1928

O LORD MOST HIGH, who art our life, our strength, and our joy, our ever-present helper and defender, look with loving mercy upon our country, for if Thou be with us none can be against us. Guide us this day unto a better knowledge of Thy will, and send down upon us, for our present need, the dew of Thy heavenly grace. May Thy servants, who have been called to administer the affairs of this Nation, daily make choice of spiritual integrity amid the corruption that is in the world through the lust of power or repute, that being unafraid in contending for the right, and reverent at the threshold of achievement, they may show forth the spirit of Him who gave Himself for the world, Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord. Amen.

Wednesday March 14 1928

O ETERNAL GOD, who alone makest men to be of one mind in a house, enrich and purify our lives and make us humble, brave, and loving, that through us, by the power of Thy spirit, Thou mayest show forth Thyself to other men. Deliver us, we pray Thee, from lack of reverence for truth and beauty, from artificiality of life, from all that is unreal and insincere, and especially from cynicism toward our brethren, made in the image of God, that with love recovered in her midst America may teach all men to love one another and all nations to dwell together in happiness and friendship, to Thy honor and glory. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Friday March 16 1928

ETERNAL GOD, who hast committed to us the swift and solemn trust of life, since we know not what a day may bring forth, but only that the hour for serving Thee is always present, may we wake to the instant claims of Thy holy will, not waiting for to-morrow, but yielding ourselves to-day. Consecrate with Thy presence the way our feet may go, and the humblest work will shine and the roughest place be made plain. Let Thy fatherly goodness be upon all Thy children; and do Thou remember in loving pity all who are destitute and homeless, whose burdens Thou hast called on us to share. Though they be troubled and distressed on every side, save them from the anguish of despair and suffer them not to fall from Thee. Grant this, O Lord, through Him whom Thou hast sent to bear our griefs and carry our sorrows, Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord. Amen.

Monday March 19 1928

O GOD, who hast made of one blood all nations of men to dwell on the face of the whole earth and didst send Thy blessed Son to preach peace to them that are far off and to them that are nigh, grant that all men everywhere may seek after Thee and find Thee and bring the nations into Thy fold. Give

us thankful hearts, that we may bless Thee for the beauty and bounty of the world; for day and night, summer and winter, seed time and harvest, and for the varied gifts of loveliness which every season brings; for the comforts and gladness of life and for the love, sympathy, and good will of men. Increase in us the desire and power to help others and enable us to embrace every opportunity of serving our generation according to Thy will. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Tuesday March 20 1928

ALMIGHTY GOD, who fillest all things with Thy presence, we beseech Thee of Thy great love to keep us near unto Thee this day. Thou hast shown us Thy ways, and we have forsaken Thee; Thou hast brought us to great honor, and we weary of Thy service. Yet spare us, good Lord, from all adversity, and restore unto us the vision lost in paths apart from Thee. Help us to advance the onward march of Thy kingdom of right and justice by the increase of chivalry and the growing reign of law and ordered life. Make us to forsake that love of party which may keep us from loving one another, that coming together in friendship we and all Thy people may find the overpowering love of God, which shall make of us a Nation one in mind and heart and will, according to the mighty working whereby Thou art ready and willing to subdue us unto Thyself. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Thursday March 22 1928

ALMIGHTY AND MOST MERCIFUL FATHER, who hast brought us through the darkness of night to the light of the morning, pour into our souls Thy holy light, that we may ever be devoted to Thee, by whose wisdom we were created, by whose mercy we have been redeemed, and by whose providence we are governed. Fill us with Thy spirit and send us forth as sons of God, that we may glory in all the discipline of life, the tasks and trials by which we are

trained to patience and to self-control. Give us wisdom, courage, and understanding, adequate to the demand of the leadership whereunto Thou hast called us, and a faith which shall dispel all the shadows of earth and fill the saddest moments of life with the light of an immortal love. Grant this, O Father, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Saturday
March 24
1928

How beautiful it is to be alive!
To wake each morn as if the Maker's grace
Did us afresh from nothingness derive,
That we might sing, "How happy is our case!
How beautiful it is to be alive!"

To read in God's great book, until we feel
Love for the love that gave it; then to kneel
Close unto Him whose truth our souls will shrive,
While every moment's joy doth more reveal
"How beautiful it is to be alive."

Not to forget when pain and grief draw nigh,
Into the ocean of time past to dive
For memories of God's mercies, or to try
To bear all sweetly, hoping still to cry
"How beautiful it is to be alive!"

Thus ever toward man's height of nobleness
Strive still some new progression to contrive;
Till, just as any other friend's, we press
Death's hand; and, having died, feel none the less
"How beautiful it is to be alive."

Let us pray. O merciful God and Heavenly Father, who hast taught us in Thy holy word that Thou dost not willingly afflict or grieve the children of men, look with pity, we humbly beseech Thee, upon the sorrows of the family and loved ones of Thy faithful servant whom Thou hast called unto Thyself. Gently Thou didst press the tired lids to rest, for so Thou givest Thy beloved sleep. Vouchsafe to him, O Lord, light and rest, peace and refreshment, joy and consolation in the paradise of God; and may the benediction of his noble character rest upon us all, that having served Thee with

constancy on earth we may be joined hereafter with Thy blessed saints in glory everlasting. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Tuesday March 27 1928

O FATHER OF ALL, who art wisdom and beauty and goodness, whose spirit ever strives in the souls of men, we thank Thee that Thou hast made us heirs of Thy creative power throughout the ages and called us to share Thy burden of redemption. Renew in us, we pray, the gift of wonder, the joy of discovery, and the everlasting freshness of experience in every day's most quiet need. Purify our lives and sanctify our homes, that our land may be filled with abundance of peace. Touch with live coals from off the altar of devotion the lips of these Thy servants, that in word and power they may be prophets of the new dawn of righteousness when all mankind shall serve Thee and worship Thee in the beauty of holiness. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Friday March 30 1928

O GOD, before whose face the generations rise and pass away, we humbly beseech Thee to bless our country, that there may be peace within our gates and prosperity in all our borders. In the light of Thy wisdom and under the guidance of Thy spirit we dedicate ourselves in love and loyalty to the welfare of this Nation. Where it is corrupt, purge it; where it is in error, direct it; where anything is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen and confirm it; where it is in want, furnish it; where it is divided, heal it; that whether in plenty or in want, we may patiently and peaceably seek Thy kingdom and its righteousness, the only full supply and sure foundation both of men and nations. Grant this, O Father, through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord. Amen.

Monday
April 2
1928

One sweetly solemn thought
Comes to me o'er and o'er;
I am nearer home to-day
Than I've ever been before.

Nearer my Father's house,
Where the many mansions be;
Nearer the great white throne,
Nearer the crystal sea.

Nearer the bounds of life,
Where we lay our burdens down;
Nearer leaving the cross,
Nearer gaining the crown.

But lying darkly between,
Winding adown through the night,
Is the silent unknown stream
That leads at last to the light.

Father, be near when my feet
Are slipping o'er the brink;
For it may be I am nearer home,
Nearer now than I think.

Let us pray. O Almighty God, who are found of those who seek Thee in loneliness, and whose portion is sufficient for the sorrowing souls of Thy children, remember in tender mercy the family and loved ones of him who has now fallen on sleep in the full strength of his glorious manhood. Thou only canst keep our feet from falling and our eyes from tears. Make us, therefore, ever mindful of the time when we shall lie down in the dust; and grant us grace always to live in such a state that we may never be afraid to die; so that, living and dying, we may be Thine, through the merits and satisfaction of Thy Son Christ Jesus, in whose name we offer up this our imperfect prayer. Amen.

Wednesday
April 4
1928

ALMIGHTY AND EVER-LIVING GOD, the source of all being and life, whose mercies are infinite and whose love is unceasing, send Thy blessing upon all who are in authority in this land and all who guide the thought of Thy people, that pure ideals may inspire us, that beauty may crown our common life, and

that vision, without which the people perish, may be kept alive in our midst. Give us calm serenity and steadfastness of purpose in the face of life, with its gleams and shadows, its ecstasy and pain, its olive wreath and crown of thorns, its glories and its Golgothas, that we may grow up into the perfection of Thy Son, who dreamed only of mankind's redemption and died to make that dream come true. Grant this for His sake, who was lifted up that He might draw all men unto Him, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday April 8 1928

I am the resurrection and the life, saith the Lord; he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die.

I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth; and though after this body be destroyed, yet in my spirit shall I see God; whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another.

I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, write, From henceforth blessed are the dead who die in the Lord. Even so saith the Spirit; for they rest from their labors and their works do follow them.

Let us pray. O Almighty God, with whom do live the spirits of those who depart hence in the Lord, and with whom the souls of the faithful after they are delivered from the burden of the flesh are in joy and felicity: We yield Thee hearty thanks for the good and noble example of Thy servant, who, having finished his course in faith, now rests from his labors.

And O merciful God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the resurrection and the life, in whom whosoever believeth, shall live, though he die, and whosoever liveth, and believeth in Him, shall not die eternally, who also hast taught us, by His holy Apostle Saint Paul, not to be sorry, as men without hope, for those who sleep in Him; we humbly beseech Thee, O Father, to raise us from the death of sin unto the life of righteousness, that, when we

shall depart this life, we may rest in Him; and that, at the general resurrection on the last day, we may be found acceptable in Thy sight, and receive that blessing, which Thy well-beloved Son shall then pronounce to all who love and fear Thee, saying, Come, ye blessed children of My Father, receive the Kingdom prepared for you from the beginning of the world. Grant this, O Father, through Jesus Christ, our mediator and redeemer. Amen.

Unto God's gracious mercy and protection we commit you. May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. May the Lord lift up the light of His countenance upon you and give you His peace both now and forevermore. Amen.

Monday April 9 1928

ALMIGHTY GOD, who through Thine only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, hast overcome death and opened unto us the gate of everlasting life, fill our souls with such a deep sense of the mystery of His resurrection that we may find new evidence of our Easter truth in these sighings and yearnings which can not be uttered, these dreams which the daylight can not melt, these shadows which never alight and never pass, these presences not felt and not to be put by, these airs from heaven so unresisting and so irresistible, these utterances of the soul which are never loud nor are ever silenced. Strengthen our valor in all conflicts of this mortal life, that we Thy immortal sons may come at last to the glory of Thy kingdom, where sorrow and sighing shall be no more and the tyranny of strife shall be overpast. Grant this for the sake of Him who is the resurrection and the life, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Friday April 13 1928

O MOST LOVING FATHER, in whose embrace all creatures live, unto whom all souls belong, Thou knowest our every need and lovest us better than we know how to love ourselves. In the gentle hush

of Thy presence remove from our hearts all unworthiness, that they may be as pure and stainless as the image of the morning star reflected in a drop of perfumed dew. Make our words and works to throb in unison with the great ebb and flow of things that bespeak contact with the universal mind of God. And grant unto these Thy servants that they may be faithful to every trust, giving utterance to their highest, noblest thought, and so stand forth as leaders who walk the highway of the right, upon whose shoulders rests the great fabric of this Republic. Hear us and bless us, O Father, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Thursday April 26 1928

ALMIGHTY GOD AND HEAVENLY FATHER, in whose being simplicity and mystery of life do meet together, cleanse our prayers with the sanctity of reason, and ennoble our reasonings with the majesty of prayer. Open our eyes, that we may see with cloudless vision through all the devious ways of self-worn paths the eternal highway of our God. Fill our hearts with such love toward Thee as will enable us through pity's tears to look upon the sorrows of mankind and to yield ourselves to the uplift of Thy children. Confirm in us the belief in the royalty of man and the sovereignty of citizenship, that in all things the matchless glory of this Republic may be revealed. Grant this, O Father, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Friday April 27 1928

O LORD OF HEAVEN AND EARTH, who leddest our fathers forth, making them to go from one kingdom to another people, we yield Thee hearty thanks for all that Thou didst for them and art doing for this land to which they came. We remember them not only as valiant in fight but as far-seeing statesmen, incorruptible patriots of the newer time, prophets of the later day. Direct us, therefore, gracious Lord, so that we may never lay our convictions on

the altar of compromise with the trembling hands of fear, but that, mindful of our duty to preserve the world's sublimest hope, we may here enshrine the enlightened conscience of our Nation. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Saturday April 28 1928

O GOD, who comest to us in an hour when we think not and in ways we least expect, we thank Thee that Thou hast clothed Thyself in our frail form, hast consented to walk our ways, endure our sorrows, and to taste for us the bitterness of death, look with loving pity upon those who have been called to drink the cup of tears, and be unto them a refuge in this their hour of utmost need.

Breathe into our hearts, O God, by the divine alchemy of Thy grace, such spirit of devotion to our tasks that when our summons comes we may receive that blessing which Thy well-beloved Son shall pronounce to all who love and serve Thee, saying, "Come ye blessed children of my Father, receive the kingdom prepared for you from the beginning of the world." Grant this, O Father, through Jesus Christ, our Mediator and Redeemer. Amen.

Monday April 30 1928

ETERNAL GOD, who hast formed and designed us for companionship with Thee, and hast called us to walk with Thee unafraid, show to us the life that serves Thee in the quiet discharge of each day's duty, that ennobles all our work by doing it as unto Thee. We ask Thee not to lift us out of toil but to prove Thy power within it; not for tasks more suited to our strength but for strength more suited to our tasks. Give to us the vision that moves, the strength that endures, that we may find a divine calling in the humblest claim of life and our abundant fruition in work well done; through Him who came to earth disguised in lowliness, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Tuesday
May 1
1928

O GOD, true source of light that never fades, of life that never dies, Thou hast set us in the bonds of time, this narrow space so crowded for life's purpose that day has worn to noon ere we have planned our work. Forgive the waste of precious moments by loitering feet and faltering wills. Teach us to lengthen our brief life by intensity of living, to fill swift hours with glowing deeds, and to speak kind words with breathless haste, for we pass this way but once. Grant this for the sake of Him whose footfalls on the shores of time made life's dim meaning clear, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Wednesday
May 2
1928

O GOD, who art near us always, we thank Thee for the blessings about our path, for the love that makes life beautiful, for thoughts that uplift and gladden us, for disappointment and failure which humble us, for pain and distress which teach us our need, but most of all for our hope in Thee and the fullness of joy which Thy presence brings. Breathe upon us now Thy hallowed calm, lift the burdens from our hearts, soothe the anxieties of our minds, and send peace into our souls, that standing in the shelter of Thy shadowing wings we may feel that power which alone can lift us far above the plane of common standards of the good into the sacred precincts of Thy divine perfection. Grant this, O Father, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Thursday
May 3
1928

BLESSED LORD, who hast given us a new commandment, that we should love one another as Thou hast loved us, teach us to love our world: The splendor of the night, the silver of the dawn, the evening's clouds of molten gold, and earth, now beauty-crowned by the artistry of spring. Give us such understanding of our fellow men that, turning from all harsh and cruel thoughts, we may embrace that ampler creed of life that finds no room for selfish-

ness or hate, that threatens no revenge, that pities those who fall, and even dares to look on sin as stumblings of the blind. And though we seem to fail in countless ways, draw us ever closer to Thyself by the mystic power of thy cross, the one sublime fulfillment of God's love. Amen.

When anxious hearts say, "Where?"
God doth answer, "In My care."
Were they frightened at the last?
No; the fear of death was past.
Do they need our tenderness?
"Where is love like Mine to bless?"
Father, tell us, where are they?
"In My keeping, night and day."

Sunday
May 6
1928

Now is Christ risen from the dead and become the first fruits of them that slept.

For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.

* * * *

Behold, I show you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed.

In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump; for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.

But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

O ALMIGHTY GOD, who hast knit together Thine elect in one communion and fellowship, in the mystical body of Thy Son, Christ our Lord: Grant us grace so to follow Thy blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those unspeakable joys which Thou hast prepared for those who unfeignedly love Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all, evermore. Amen.

Monday
May 28
1928

ETERNAL GOD, who deckest Thyself with the garments of light, shine on us with the radiance of Thy dawning, pierce the earthborn clouds that hide Thee from us, and lead us through the deeps of our own nature into Thy holy presence. Remove from us all prejudice and narrowness of thought, that we may rejoice in whatever Thou revealest. Guide us in all perplexities of life and conduct, that we may hold fast that which is true, regardless of the praise or blame of men. In the deliberations of this day let duty reign supreme. Make reverent our thought. Rekindle altar fires and hallow our work by devotion to the tasks of our high calling. Grant this for the sake of Him who for us endured to the uttermost, Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord. Amen.

Monday
December 3
1928

ALMIGHTY GOD, OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, who alone dost guide and govern the minds and hearts of men, make us deeply conscious of Thy presence in our midst as again we meet to take counsel together concerning the work Thou has committed to our care. To the guidance of Thy wisdom and the keeping of Thy love we commend our Nation, and do Thou so rule the hearts of Thy servants, the President, the Vice President, and all others in

authority, that they, knowing whose ministers they are, may above all things seek Thy honor and glory.

And may Thine especial blessing rest upon the Members of the Senate, that as the times demand strong minds, great hearts, true faith, and willing hands, so they may stand forth as leaders—sun-crowned men who live above the fog in public duty and in private thinking. Let their souls be quiet homes of prayer and praise, where the needful cares of life are wisely ordered with wide, sweet spaces kept for Thee, where holy thoughts may dwell and fervent longings watch and wait Thy coming; and grant that they may walk while it is day in the steps of Him who with fewest hours finished Thy divinest work, Jesus Christ, Thy Son our Lord. Amen.

Tuesday December 4 1928

ALMIGHTY LORD OF LIFE, of work and peace, Lord of our wandering wills, direct our thoughts at this morning hour away from the illusions of this world, and fix them only on the love of God, the tenderness of Christ, the silver wings and the refreshing dew of Thine own Spirit. Enable us to weigh all things in the balances of the Sanctuary, that truth and justice, religion and piety, may be established among us for all generations. And grant that as we serve Thee faithfully here on earth we may find our perfect consummation and joy in serving Thee in those broader fields of life into which it shall please Thee to call us at the last. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Wednesday December 5 1928

O GOD, Thou great companion of our hearts, our fairest vision of truth and love, in whose presence, as we behold the far-flung vistas of our days, great things become great and small things small, and in the warmth of whose great love our hearts respond to beauty and move with kindness and patient

sympathy; strengthen, we beseech Thee, our wills toward goodness and against the evil; multiply our joy in every earnest task and wholesome pleasure, that with Thee we may be coworkers, redeeming the waste places without, within. Renew our faith in the blessed kingdom of righteousness and love, that through our silent, subtle ministry of gracious ways we may hasten its coming, through Him who taught us thus to pray, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Thursday December 6 1928

ETERNAL FATHER, with whom a thousand years are as one day, Thou hast called us, whose lives pass as a watch in the night, into Thy service, and as the day is short, the work abundant, the laborers remiss, and the Master presses, make us bold and swift and brave to do Thy will. Write deep in our hearts the suffering and pain of many souls so wearied by the burden and the stress of life, and grant us such a vision of our world and its great need as shall make us instant and eager sharers with Thee in its redemption, now in the great day of our opportunity. Stay, we beseech Thee, the fever in our hearts and help us so to do our work that it shall never need to be undone. Grant this, O loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Mediator and Redeemer. Amen.

Friday December 7 1928

ALMIGHTY GOD, in whose embrace all creatures live, and who dost bestow those benefits which human frailty can not grasp, quicken in us the sense of Thy presence, refresh us with Thy power.

Lift our souls above the weary round of harassing thoughts into the quiet contemplation of Thine infinite calm. Humble us by laying bare before us our littleness and our sin, and then exalt us by the revelation of Thyself as counselor and friend, that with a sure and steadfast faith in Thee we may quit ourselves like men, approved of God, and thus become springs of strength and joy to the Nation

Thou hast called us to serve. Grant this for the sake of Him who is the Desire of nations, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Wednesday December 12 1928

HEAVENLY FATHER, lover of our souls, whose Spirit greets us at the threshold of the dawn, make us friends of all the world as we touch the hands and lives of men. Suffer us not to bruise the rightful self-respect of any by our malice or contempt. Help us by our sympathy to cheer the suffering, by our hopefulness to freshen those who droop in sorrow, by our striving on the heights of great endeavor to strengthen in all the wholesome sense of the worth and joy of life, and bring us to the eventide free from conscious wrong and grateful for this day of serving Thee. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Thursday December 13 1928

ALMIGHTY GOD, fountain of life and light, whose tireless energy pervades the universe, enable us in our work to reflect some broken beam of Thy glory. Grant that we may accomplish our appointed tasks with a sense of ease and mastery, always conscious that we are greater than they, and so direct our efforts by Thy purpose that we may win for mankind that freedom and mutual trust which shall cause all nations, in the spirit of unity and abiding fellowship, to bring their honor and glory into Thy kingdom. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Saturday December 15 1928

ALMIGHTY LORD, to whom all things in heaven and earth do bow, be now and evermore the strong tower and defense of this Nation, that Thy people may be sober-minded, truthful, reverent in spirit, and pure in heart. Let no unhallowed words pollute the tongues which Thou hast made to praise and bless Thee, no evil action defile the bodies which Thou hast taught us are the temples of Thy

presence. Thou hast crowned our country with vast and marvelous achievements; make us, therefore, worthy of the past and true prophets of the future, that Thy kingdom may come and Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Grant this for the sake of Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord. Amen.

Monday
December 17
1928

O THOU whose word, hidden in the framework of the world, is revealed in the mind of man, speak to us in loving accents as we keep our solemn tryst with Thee.

We thank Thee for the dimmest consciousness of Thy presence; for the trail of a seamless robe about us, the burning of our hearts, the whisper in our minds; but do Thou pour Thy glory forth, that we may see the majesty of our daily path crowded with helpfulness and broadened with opportunity until it becomes a highway through the desert; and may every heart that watches with us see the Sun of Righteousness arise with healing in His wings for all the nations of the earth. Grant this for the sake of Him who is our peace, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Thursday
December 20
1928

STRONG SON OF GOD, IMMORTAL LOVE, to whom all the ministries of life are sacraments of beauty, we thank Thee for the gladness of the morning which calls to holy dedication and the gentle peace of evening which speaks of quiet rest. Help us to a deeper knowledge of the world within, the glorious kingdom of the mind, the deep recesses of the soul, where we can hear Thy voice, comforting our sadness, banishing our care, urging us beyond ourselves to battle for the right. Free us from all pride and fear, from vulgar ambition and ignoble self-indulgence, that our desires may meet and answer to Thine own. Make us brave enough to bear the truth, strong enough to live in the light, and glad to yield ourselves to Thee, our Savior and our Friend. Amen.

Friday December 21 1928

ALMIGHTY GOD, who dost fill us with yearnings of an infinite desire, with longings insatiable, with groanings that can not be uttered, abide with us this day as a Silence behind the voices of the world, as the Truth within its illusions. Purify our vision, that we may know as we are known; increase our faith, that we may lean wholly on Thee. May the spirit of duty and service ennoble all our work, and do Thou lift us far above the tyranny of detail into the larger freedom and fuller life of discovery which Thou hast revealed in Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord. Amen.

Saturday December 22 1928

ETERNAL FATHER, who makest us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Thine only Son, Jesus Christ, at whose first coming heaven disclosed its dazzling minstrelsies to the soft silence of the listening night: Thou hast clothed Him with the robe of our humanity, and from the heart throb of an infant's life the thrill of human destiny has pulsed throughout the world. Thou hast consecrated motherhood as the tender channel of Thy grace and touched with mystic insight the hearts of simple folk.

Grant to us, therefore, so to prepare for this holy Christmastide that at the coming of the Christ to the inn of our hearts He may find His servants ready, waiting for no new master but for one long known and loved.

O holy Child of Bethlehem!
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us to-day.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
Oh, come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Immanuel!

Amen.

Thursday
January 3
1929

FATHER OF LIFE AND GOD OF THE LIVING, as the sweeping course of time has brought us to the dawn of another year, we bless Thee for the constant memories of what we are that rise up within us, for the hush of solemn thoughts, for the moments of insight when the veil on the face of all things falls away, and for the hours of high resolve which quicken the life within.

As in the changing seasons, Nature by Thy hand shakes off her olden vesture, only to be clothed upon with renewed splendor, so now by Thy Spirit enter our lives, rid us of all Thou canst not approve, and clothe us with the garments of love and service. Bless our Nation and all who are in authority, sanctify our homes and hallow our relationships, that we may be a people in whom joy and peace are set forth as glowing sacraments of Thy presence. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Saturday
January 5
1929

O GOD, whose Spirit mingles with our own as sunshine in the air, help us in spirit and in truth to worship only Thee.

Forgive in us whatever is amiss, that in the duties of this day we may find ourselves free from the dusty cares of life, eager to press with winged feet through paths of high endeavor to the goal set by Thy love. Lead us out of darkness into dawn, out of the less to the large, and use us for Thine own purposes, just as Thou wilt and when and where. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Monday
January 7
1929

O SHEPHERD OF ISRAEL, who dost neither slumber nor sleep, we are the people of Thy pasture and the sheep of Thy hand. Make us to love Thy voice and answer to the name by which Thou callest us; so shall none be able to pluck us out of Thy hand. Beside the still waters, through pastures green, and in the valley where deep shadows lie, be Thou our

strength and shield; and do Thou shepherd us beyond the plains of peril to the eternal fold where we may lie down in peace and take our rest, for it is Thou only that makest us dwell in safety. Grant this for the sake of Him who is the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Monday January 14 1929

MERCIFUL FATHER, whose love passeth knowledge and whose peace passeth understanding, to whom all sons of men are dear, help us to realize that we are members one of another, for Thou hast made of one blood all nations of mankind. Purge away the vanity, intolerance, and unforgiving spirit which keep us far apart; and since man's need is one, grant that the spirit of the Christ may break down all barriers and answer the desire of all nations. May we never be content with aught that excludes another from the fullness of Thy grace or the welcome of Thy heart, and do Thou make us faithful and true followers of Thy Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Wednesday January 16 1929

ALMIGHTY FATHER, from whose bosom we dropped into life, we know so little of the path we tread or where it leads, but Thou knowest all things, and in Thee is our trust.

Put to silence now our clamorous thoughts that we may be still and know that Thou art God, that Thy sheltering love enfolds us, wooing us to better things. Give us strength for our burdens, wisdom for our responsibilities, insight for our times, and faith sufficient for the larger claims, that in all our striving for the Nation's weal we may be conscious of our fellowship with Thee.

Help us thus to bear the fret of care and to keep unbroken vigil of the soul lest we trifle with life's golden opportunities or scorn its swiftly ebbing day. All of which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Thursday
January 17
1929

ALMIGHTY GOD, who art from everlasting to everlasting, Ancient of Days yet ever new; all things wax old as doth a garment, but Thou art the same and Thy years shall not fail.

Thou hast made us heirs of all the ages as we stand at the confluence of time. Show us, therefore, how we may better serve Thee with what we have, and help us to serve Thee further by patience amid our disabilities.

Look down with pity upon all who are stricken by grief; remember those in pain who must so soon take up again their weary burdens, and grant that in this new day each child of Thine, finding something of the comfort of Thy love, may give thanks unto Thee, whose mercy endureth forever. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Thursday
January 24
1929

ALMIGHTY GOD, Spirit of infinite love, have mercy upon this Nation and look with favor upon the people Thou hast planted, for without Thee we stand uncrowned, truth is perished in the streets, and justice fallen at our gates.

If we have failed to acknowledge Thy guidance, forgive our foolish pride and suffer us not to trust in our own might, lest following selfish aims we invite the shame of disaster. Therefore come and abide in our midst, bringing peace to the hearts of men; come like a voice of stillness that calls us in the watches of the night; come like whispering winds that sway with slumbrous rhythm the branches of the trees; come like summer seas that lave with their silent tides earth's lonely shores. Come, breathe on us, Breath of God, and make us wholly Thine. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Saturday
January 26
1929

O MERCIFUL GOD AND HEAVENLY FATHER, who hast planted our feet in a world so full of change that we know not what a day may bring forth, and hast curtained every day with night and rounded our little lives with sleep, look with loving pity, we beseech Thee, upon the sorrows of the loved ones and friends of him whom Thou didst but yesterday call to his reward. In the service of his country he bravely upheld the right and generously lived for others' good.

Help us, therefore, to use with all diligence the span of our appointed time, so that when our summons comes we may receive that blessing which Thy well-beloved Son shall then pronounce to all who love and fear Thee, saying, Come, ye blessed children of my Father, receive the kingdom prepared for you from the beginning of the world. Grant this, O Father, through Jesus Christ, our Mediator and Redeemer. Amen.

Wednesday
January 30
1929

ALMIGHTY GOD, who art above all, yet in all, who knowest our need of Thee, since Thou hast placed it there, and who knowest our desire for Thee, since Thou understandest our inmost thoughts, send us forth to meet the challenge of this day conscious of our fellowship with Thee, who hast made us in Thine image. Fill our hearts with thankfulness for the gift of life with its great adventure, its golden opportunity, its zeal, its triumphs, its failures that quicken us, its pain and sorrow that chasten and ennoble us. Help us to drink to the full of the beauty and strength of the world, knowing that they come from Thee as gifts of love to us. Make us aware of life ablaze with the presence of God, and above all give us the mind of Him who reveals the majesty of every common task and sheds the light of heaven upon our path, Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord. Amen.

Thursday
January 31
1929

O THOU WHO HEAREST PRAYER, to whom all flesh shall come, satisfy us early with Thy mercy, for Thou hast taught us that ere our yearning has broken into speech Thou hearest us, that no secret sigh of discontent escapes Thy listening ear. Give to us an humble heart wherein we may enshrine the Infinite, and save us from the presumption that prides itself on knowledge not our own or fails to recognize the gifts Thy bounty yields. Reveal Thyself not only in this mystic hour but in all our strivings for the Nation's good, that we may be like those noble souls of other days who bore aloft the torch of truth, who from the mountain tops of vision heralded the coming day, and in the darkened valleys failed not to lift unto the hills of help the eyes of fellow men. Hear us and bless us for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Monday
February 4
1929

GOD OF ALL GRACE AND LOVE, who hast filled the world with beauty, open our eyes, we beseech Thee, that we may behold Thy gracious hand in all Thy works in earth and sea and sky. Thou hast hallowed by love our homes, wherein we find joy to heighten our life and mirth to refresh us in our work; and because we are weak and dependent give unto us the gladsome help of Thy loving-kindness. Open our hearts that we may share the faith Thou hast revealed in Thy Son until the littleness of our knowledge is lost in the greatness of Thy love. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Thursday
February 7
1929

O LORD OUR GOD, who keepest covenant and showest mercy unto Thy servants who walk before Thee with all their hearts, how often have we heard Thy voice in youth and in age, in sickness and in health, in joy and in sorrow, at morning and at eventide, and hearing, failed to answer. Do Thou, therefore, come to us in the life which

now entangles, meet us in the daily paths our busy feet must tread, and make a highway through the avenues of sense, clothing our mortal flesh with radiance and power.

Help us to yield ourselves so utterly to Thee before the world with its enthralling cares that we may abhor all lesser standards of the right which threaten to enslave and drive us from the high demands of public service to seek some quiet cloister of the soul. Redeem our failures, pardon our transgressions, make every circumstance a throne, and crown us with Thy never-ending peace. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Monday February 11 1929

O HEAVENLY FATHER, whose life is within and whose love is about us, make us glad of heart as without haste or confusion we enter upon our appointed tasks, conscious of our ability to meet every rightful demand because of Thine indwelling. Give us a robust spirit that shall choose its way with self-possession, with the discerning eye of interest and the quick pulse of power—a spirit that shall enable us to know our fellow men and plead their righteous cause. May ours be the helping hand to the weak, may we be a comfort to those in sorrow and affliction, even as we have been comforted of Thee, that with heart and hand we may give ourselves to do the work of Him who hath called us to follow His most holy life, Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord. Amen.

Friday February 15 1929

O THOU who remainest the same though all else fades, who changest not with our changing moods, lead us to a clearer vision of the light that knows no shadow of turning that we stray not in folly away. Thou knowest our frame, Thou rememberest that we are but dust; save us, therefore, from whatever anguish or confusion we have brought upon ourselves, for at our faintest cry of need

the valleys are exalted, the mountains and hills are made low, and the crooked paths of life are straightened.

Bind together with cords of love the hearts of these Thy servants, that the spirit of mutual understanding and deeper fellowship may be reflected in their corporate efforts.

Look with pity, we beseech Thee, upon those who through love's vigil have watched and waited and have been brought to the valley of shadow. Fold them closer to Thy mercy's breast and grant them surcease from every sorrow for the sake of Him who died that we might live, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Thursday February 21 1929

O ETERNAL GOD, who countest the nations as the dust of the balance and takest up the isles as a very little thing, who hast put down the mighty from their seat and exalted them of low degree, bless, we beseech Thee, our land with all manner of good, and write the law of justice on the hearts of its rulers and people. Heal the divisions in the household of Thy sons and daughters, and make all their mutual strivings to cease.

Stay the injustice that binds heavy burdens upon the weak, and relieve those who suffer under the wrongs and cruelties of their fellow men. Let Thy fatherly pity and protection rest upon the poor, the sick, and the sorrowful; and may the whole world be filled with the light of Thy truth and the glory of Thy kingdom. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Friday February 22 1929

LORD GOD OF HOSTS, whose mind embraces all mankind, whose heart is wide to harbor all our race, we thank Thee that though the ages stretch beyond our grasp, though life puts on her myriad forms and wastes herself in vain designs, Thou holdest all within the hollow of Thy hand, and though the march of man reaches from dusk to

dawn, from the abyss to the throne, and generations rise and pass away, Thou leadest everyone.

Make us, therefore, ever mindful of Thy loving care, and, as we reverently pause in the midst of thronging duties to pay grateful tribute to the Father of our Country, bring into captivity every thought, that we may commune with what is high and holy in Thy sight and rejoice only in the fair and fragrant things of virtue and honor.

Kindle within us a flame in this aspiring hour that shall consume every grosser passion, that from our life henceforth, as from a lamp of Thine, a light may shine upon the ways of men. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Monday February 25 1929

O GOD, Thou unseen source of holiness and peace, help us to trust not in our knowledge of Thee but in Thy knowledge of us; make us sure of Thee, not because we feel our thoughts of Thee are true but just because we know Thou dost transcend them all. Be patient with our foolish doubts, for Thou hast set the questions which perplex us, and grant that we may find our unbelief to be but nascent faith fretting at its outworn form.

When we are tempted to desist from moral strife, reveal the power Thy presence doth impart, and ere we tire of mental search, remind us of Thy call which stirred our souls and turn us back from voyages of thought to that which sent us forth, from wanderings without to find Thee still within. Grant this for the sake of Thine own blessed Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayers

Offered by the Chaplain at the Opening of the Daily Sessions of the Senate of the United States During the Seventy-first Congress (1929–1931)

Monday March 4 1929

Almighty and Eternal God, Father of all mankind, ruler of the destinies of nations, Thou hast called us by our name and we are Thine. Thou hast established us in the gateways of the world, Thou hast moulded our speech, mixed our blood from uncorrupted springs and crowned us with every blessing; make us, therefore, a righteous nation doing justice, loving mercy, walking humbly with our God. Breathe upon all who are assembled here the spirit of Thy grace, especially upon these Thy servants whom Thou hast called to be President and Vice President of the United States. Endue them with innocency of life, with wisdom and discretion, manifest Thyself to them that in the exactions of their work they may never be drawn aside from the path of rectitude. Inspire them with divine faith, subdue them to the lowly practice of those who have lived as fellow workers with Thee, and grant that the words of their mouths and the meditations of their hearts may be always acceptable in Thy sight.

Let Thy blessing abide continually upon them, the Members of Congress and all others in authority, that they knowing whose ministers they are may above all things seek Thy honor and glory and that all the people duly considering whose authority they bear, may faithfully and obediently honor them in Thee and for Thee according to Thy blessed Word and ordinance. May the benediction of Thy peace rest upon the retiring President, Vice President, and Members of Congress, to whom a grateful Nation pays loving tribute.

Bless all the nations of the world and bind us ever closer together in the bonds of holy fellowship, that when the silver cord is loosed and the golden bowl is broken we may receive the crown of life and dwell with Thee in the brightness of Thy eternal morning. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Tuesday March 5 1929

O GOD, author of the world's joy, bearer of its pain, make us glad to share in the privileges of Thy bestowal and to make full use of our opportunities for service. Grant that in the deliberations of this day, by venturing out into the open spaces of Thy love, we may become less conscious of effort, more conscious of power. Transform into Thy likeness every thought and purpose; make perfect Thy strength in our weakness, that what we do here may redound to the honor of our country and to the spread of Thy kingdom among men. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Monday December 2 1929

ALMIGHTY GOD AND HEAVENLY FATHER, who art the fountain of life and light, who turnest the shadow of death into the morning, make us deeply conscious of Thy presence here and now, in the return of this hour when duty, that stern daughter of Thy voice, calls us again to counsel for the Nation's weal. Bless all in authority in our beloved land. Make these Thy servants glad with the gladness that is strength, giving them patience and wisdom from on high for the work whereunto Thou hast called them.

Light up this scene about us with gleams from the unseen as we pause in reverent silence to pay tribute to the noble comrade whose finely centered soul no foolish pride or selfish care could e'er disturb, and bind us ever closer with the cords of love into a corporate fellowship.

Bless us to the end with the vision of the single eye, with continual fresh blossoms of growth and fresh fruits of trial bravely borne for the sake of Him, the perfect flower and fruitage of our race, Jesus Christ Thy Son our Lord. Amen.

Tuesday December 3 1929

THOU WHO ART LORD OF ALL, whose kingdom it is that ruleth, in whose hand we are held, save, we beseech Thee, our Nation from all evil, from irreverence and irreligion, from moral decadence and indifference to righteousness. Send us Thy divine Spirit to kindle in our souls the warmth and ardor with which great tasks are accomplished, and inspire us to fruitful thought and earnest will.

Dispel all inward mists and confusions induced by insincerity, give us the freedom of the open and responsive mind, and guide us in our uncertainties through the wilderness of conflicting thought to Thy good land at last. Strengthen us to live within the shadows and the narrow bounds of time the life eternal, the life of a potent ministry, yielded no less by what we are than what we do. All of which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Wednesday December 4 1929

ALMIGHTY GOD, whose mercies are renewed every morning, we thank Thee for the blessing of home and friends, for the sense of duty, for the growth of knowledge, for the grandeur of self-sacrifice, and for the manifold things that invest life with sacredness and crown it with dignity and worth.

Bestow upon us the inward gift of a heart fully cleansed and enlarged, and enlighten us with the light that illumines and constrains, which shows the way and thither turns our feet, that day by day we may perceive and know what things we ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to perform the same. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Friday
December 13
1929

ALMIGHTY GOD, whose is the strength of the everlasting hills, and by whom the feeble are made strong in their hour of utmost need, give us of Thy fullness strength that we may be wise in action with the wisdom we have learned of Thee.

Look Thou upon us and speak to us in secret concerning the things that are needful for to-day, whether for commendation or guidance, inspiration or correction, that whatever we do here may redound to Thy honor and glory and the permanent well-being of our country. Let Thy love bless the sorrowful, the heavy laden, the sick, and the afflicted, and forget not those who seem to us to have no helper, who seem to be forsaken, that through our kindness and ready sympathy they may be restored and comforted.

Prepare us for sorrow or for joy, for meeting on our way the angel with the sword or the angel with healing in his wings, and when we droop in spirit lift us to those loftier heights of thought and feeling where the meaning of each day's events shall be made plain. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Monday
January 6
1930

O GOD, who endurest throughout all generations though we bring our years to an end, as it were a tale that is told, who givest us the day for work and the night for repose, quicken in us the spirit that shall so inspire and suffuse our actions as to give to them a potency and worth exceeding all our fondest hopes.

Bless in abundant measure the President of the United States, the Vice President, the Members of the Congress, the judiciary, and all who bear rule in our Nation, and grant that peace and happiness, truth and justice may be firmly established among us now as we enter upon the duties of another year.

To those who are burdened give the soothing strength of a sweet peace divinely shed; to those who mourn, surcease from the plangent poignancy

of grief; to those who walk in darkness, the spirit of the dawn, that each may be as one who sees the daybreak on the distant hills, who lifts his eyes to God, and lo! it is morning; or bends them to the earth, and lo! the bitter herbs of sorrow are lustered with the dew of grace.

These, and all other blessings, which for our unworthiness we dare not ask, vouchsafe to give us for the worthiness of Thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Tuesday March 25 1930

ALMIGHTY GOD, by whose hand we are led, and whose Spirit in us giveth understanding, renew our minds with thoughts of spiritual refreshing borne on wings from the secret place of the Eternal, thoughts that visit only those whose hearts are purged with the constant breath of holy aspiration. Teach us to bestow our labor for that which is just and true, that in loftiness of purpose we may feel more keenly the wrongs that should be righted. Draw near us when the world oppresses, that the bondage of subjection may be loosed; abide with us when we walk with sorrow, that we may be chastened by her company.

Righteousness of God! Rise upon us like fresh ocean tides upon the strand, to our perpetual cleansing; control our wills, heal our inward obliquities, overcome in us the might of prejudice, and bind us with the cords of fellowship, that the glory of our high calling may be revealed. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Friday March 28 1930

O GOD, who art always more ready to hear than we to pray, and who lovest every soul of man more than a mother loves her child, give us the inward grace to utilize for every need the impact of all outward things, the glowing love enriched by service, the generous mind that sees with a thousand eyes though others be dim-sighted, and the

reverence that arms with courage as we face the duties of another day. Bless our fair land with every element of good, that sheltered by Thy fostering care we may approve ourselves a nation void of offense, and in this hour of serving Thee may discern in the crises of our times Thy judgments, in the growing demand for righteousness the coming of Thy kingdom. All of which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Tuesday April 1 1930

O GOD, who art the foundation of the true and good, the secret of all grace and strength, bestow upon our country Thy patient teaching to its gradual purging from all lingering corruption, that a purer social order may appear.

Make us, in all places, high and low, a people of a wise and understanding heart, that happiness and peace may reign, that the blessing of the Lord, which maketh rich with more than temporal good, may inspire in us a wide and vivid sympathy, a self-forgetting care, and thought for others. Be with us in the leaden hours, through days that are dull and dreary, that when the shadows lengthen and the purple from the distance dies we may still reflect some glory of the secret presence of our God. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Wednesday April 2 1930

O THOU whose dwelling is in the light of setting suns and the round ocean and the living air and the blue sky and in the mind of man, look upon us with Thy great compassion as we gather here; our presence is our prayer, our need the only plea we dare to make, Thy purposes the one assurance we possess. Speak to us not only in the silence but in each tumultuous thought, not only from the past but also in the present, for now is the accepted time in which to make some little way with plodding steps along the path of progress.

Bless everyone in this fair land, that we may be worthy of our freedom, persistent in reform, active in benevolence, and faithful to our trust. Satisfy us with Thy mercy from day to day, that in fullness of joy we may walk before Thee with a perfect heart. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Monday April 7 1930

ALMIGHTY GOD, FATHER OF ALL MERCIES, we, Thine unworthy servants, do give Thee most humble and hearty thanks for all Thy goodness and loving kindness to us and to all men. Open our eyes anew, in these anointing moments of worship, to the beauty of the world that lies about us, to the glory of the common life, to the clear meaning of the duties of this day.

Keep us, we beseech Thee, both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Tuesday April 8 1930

MOST HOLY FATHER, who standest before us like the light, like love all lovely, like the morning: We thank Thee for that which eye hath not yet seen nor ear heard, for Thy footprints in creation, for Thy glory in the soul of man. Grant to us, therefore, such clear vision of our tasks that by striving after justice, by a faithful, fearless following after truth, wherever it may lead, we may help to plant Thy kingdom in the nations of the world.

Dwell with us in Thy glorious splendor, walk Thou in our midst, encourage the faint-hearted, comfort those who mourn, bless those who labor and are heavy laden, and help us all to bear each other's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. We ask it in His name and for His sake. Amen.

Monday
April 14
1930

O GOD, who transcendest all our thoughts of Thee, yet comest to us in the things that are seen, enable us to realize the presence of eternity, that we may wisely employ our time; the nearness of Thy judgment, lest we forget what manner of men we are; the long-suffering of Thy love, lest at thought of Thee we grow afraid. Bring us from our diverse views into the realm of the common truth, from the cares of our self-love to the ardors of self-abnegation, that united to Thee in the fundamental law of duty Thy presence may surround our ignorance, Thy holiness our sin, Thy peace the disquiet of our souls.

Grant this, we beseech Thee, for the sake of Thy Son, who took upon Him our flesh and suffered death upon the cross that all mankind should follow the example of His great humility, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Monday
April 21
1930

ALMIGHTY FATHER, whose goodness hath no bounds, whose compassion reacheth to the farthest corner of our life, make us glad with the gladness of the Eastertide with life and immortality brought to light. Open our eyes to the simple beauty of the wayside, where nature decks herself in robes of spring; to the loveliness men hide because of our mistrust; to Thy spirit of illumination in every form of life, that heart may throb and mind may glow with a diviner purpose.

Bestow upon this Nation the unmeasured gifts of peace, upon our President, Vice President, the Members of the Congress, and all others in authority the wisdom needful for their tasks. Draw us from all base content, with a vision fixed on far-off goals, by the boundlessness of hope, the endlessness of charity, the confidence of faith, to the concord of all nations and the brotherhood of man. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Thursday May 8 1930

O THOU who art ever near, yet invisible to our dim eyes; who dwellest in the innermost, yet art unknown to our distracted thought, we come to Thee with no fond feeling of perfection reached, but only with the wistfulness of need. Give us this day Thy life in such abundance that we may bathe our souls in Thy pure light; give us sufficient of Thy power that we may be a power of righteousness among our fellow men; give us such measure of Thy love that all the lesser things of time and sense may fade before the vision of the highest, holiest manhood.

And if Thou seest fit to lead us through the shadowland of sorrow, suffering, or sacrifice, make us to be as those whose hearts are set on high, whose minds are generous and lofty, for the sake of Him whose sorrow stays our feet, whose suffering stirs our hearts, whose sacrifice doth save our souls. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Monday May 12 1930

ALMIGHTY GOD, who through the mystery of instinct dost lead all living things along their way, grant that we may hear Thy voice, which calls us to be true and steadfast, and so—unafraid.

Take of Thine own spirit and lay it upon us—the spirit of fatherly care for all Thy children, the spirit of the Saviour's love for the erring and the lost, the spirit of the Comforter's tenderness for every sad and lonely soul.

Fill our cup each morning with the water of life, that we may give to him that is athirst; put into our hearts such living words from Thee that nothing we may say shall fall to the ground, returning to Thee void. Help us to make the welfare of all the supreme law of our land, that our commonwealth may rest secure upon the love of all its citizens, that the blessing of the Nation may fall upon our service and rise triumphant unto Thee. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Tuesday
May 13
1930

ETERNAL FATHER, who renewest the face of the earth with Thy breath, so gentle and potent, reviving for us in the springtime the grace and beauty that had fled, make us to partake of other things than those made known to eyes of sense—messages of splendor, baffling and alluring, revealed through the soul's east window of divine surprise. Give us this day a larger charity, a deeper self-knowledge, a growing sense of moral acquisition that can only come through high endeavor for the better, purer things of life.

Pity and pardon us for what we have missed and might have attained, strengthen our weakness, arm us with trust in Thy mercy which fails not, in Thy patience which waits without weariness, that we may press forward toward the mark of our high calling which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Thursday
May 15
1930

ALMIGHTY GOD, who knowest every changing thought of man, strengthen in us, we beseech Thee, the appeal of all that is true and beautiful, that evil may lose its power and insincerity be done away. Help us in these troublous times, by discipline, industry, and prayer, to refine, enlarge, and rightly employ our minds, lest these days of deeper knowledge involve us in a greater condemnation. Make us true to the light we see, that despite misunderstandings and suspicions which serve to arm the nations we may proclaim the dawning sense of brotherhood to the peoples of the world.

Remember those who feel no need of Thee, who seem content with a careless, unexamined life, and brood Thou upon their spirit until they stir to greet Thine own. All of which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Friday May 16 1930

ALMIGHTY GOD, whose wondrous name is love, we thank Thee for the night's mysterious gift of the timely dew of sleep and for morning fair, who, with pilgrim steps marked by the circling hours, unbars the gates of light. Call us, therefore, by that secret name which unlocks the heart as we realize Thy presence. Forgive the sins which crowd into our mind that we may see golden days fruitful of golden deeds with love and joy triumphant. Stir us with high hopes of living to be brave and noble men, dear unto Thee and worthy of the Nation's trust, that hidden powers may come to light and yield their service to Thy kindgom. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Monday May 19 1930

O MERCIFUL GOD, who alone canst fill our life with holy purpose, at the beginning of this new day we beseech Thee to be with us through all its hours.

If there be in our hearts any ignoble purpose or injurious design remove it, that the sense of our intimacy with Thee may fill us with a deep and saving self-respect, with the happiness of heart which comes to those who scorn to wear the vestment of hypocrisy. Give us the courage to think brave thoughts, to speak brave words, to do brave deeds; o'ershadow us with Thy discernment, that we may grow in moral thoughtfulness, learning the lessons of each stage of life, till at last our mind shall gently rise into that sovereign rest of Thine above. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Tuesday May 20 1930

O LORD, OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, whose blessed Son came not to be ministered unto but to minister, and gave us a new commandment that we should love one another, grant, we beseech Thee, that inspired by Thy love and following in His steps we may worthily minister in Thy name to all who suffer wrong, to the friendless and the needy, and to all who are burdened with care.

Give us wisdom to resolve and patience to perform the nobler tasks, that doing good by stealth we may blush to find it fame, knowing that one self-approving hour outweighs whole years of men's applause. And when the dusk—that miracle of gold and violet moments with the light of immortal heaven behind the rampart of the hills—shall call us home, may we find rest and peace in Him, who came among us as one that serveth, and having loved His own, loved them even to the uttermost, Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord. Amen.

Wednesday
May 21
1930

ALMIGHTY GOD, Thou ruler of the nations, who hast called us to share with Thee in the order and government of the world, bring us now through quiet prayer into the spirit from which shall flow some streams of service for the Nation's weal as light streams from the stars. Pardon our shortcomings, our instability of purpose, our proneness to decline from vivid aspiration to the dullness of content, and grant us such clearmindedness, such passion for the reign of righteousness that what we greatly think we shall ever nobly dare. And when we talk with our past hours, in spirit walks of days deceased, speak Thou with us, that we may know that life is long which answers life's great end. All of which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Thursday
May 22
1930

MOST MERCIFUL GOD, fountain of all grace, Thou uncreated source of life, who hast made us living souls, and coming forth in this our fleeting form hast given us to have life within ourselves, grant us at this morning hour the bestowal of Thy wondrous gifts of wisdom, kindliness, and patience, that we may find our work a joy and count all labor light that is undertaken out of love toward Thee.

Touch the heart of this great Nation, kindling her undazzled eyes at the full midday beam, and

guard us from all tendencies to careless, fitful service on behalf of all mankind. Keep us ever mindful of the solemn obligations our duty doth impose, that we may know the fuller life exceeding its own promise in its ripened store and find our perfect rest in Thee, who wilt not rest till Thou art perfected in us. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Friday May 23 1930

ALMIGHTY GOD, OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, may Thy presence go with us into the life of this new day, strengthening us in all our needs, directing us in all our ways. Make us to be kindly affectioned one to another; in honor preferring one another; not slothful; fervent in spirit, serving the Lord.

Give us that rare atmosphere of mind through which the world of nature may be raised into our thought, imparting somewhat of its mystic beauty. Touch Thou our lips, that we may speak the language of real men, acquired not on the level of ordinary intercourse but in moments of vivid sensation, when language is winnowed and ennobled by sentiment, that, with thought and speech held captive to Thy will, we may use our varied gifts to the glory of Thy kingdom. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Monday May 26 1930

ETERNAL FATHER, who lovest all Thy children with an everlasting love, grant us Thy choicest blessings as we gather here to dedicate anew our service to our country and our God. Give us a clear soul, an iron will, an attractive union of manliness and godliness, of shrewd sense and unworldly aims, and withal that kindliness and pity the absence of which abates the actual value of all these other gifts. Enrich our personality with hope and greatness that we may touch the simplest acts of life with an unearthly light, revealing them as beauteous symbols of high mystery.

If sorrow or the fret of care disturb us in our work with vacuous mood, bring Thou the lesson to our soul, not as some tedious interlude of painful weary hours but as the very melody and march of life itself which lead us unto Thee. All of which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

Wednesday May 28 1930

O THOU who but yesternight didst enfold the slumbering world in rayless majesty that again Thou mightest bring forth the day in which Thou hast decked Thyself with light as with a garment, we thank Thee for the hours of rest after toilsome labor and the joy of doing with all our might whatsoever Thou commandest, divinely surprised by the beautiful thoughts Thou thinkest in us. Refresh us with the precious things of earth and the fullness thereof—the lengthening daylight, the pulsings of spring, the new robe of verdure with which nature is clothed—that we may be happy as children while striving as men, knowing that we are armed without if innocent within.

Keep our hearts pure, our thinking straight, our spirits humble, that from all seeming evil we may still educe the good and find on duty's highway that holy shrine where buds the promise of celestial worth. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Monday June 9 1930

ETERNAL FATHER, who drawest the veil of night over the tired eyes of day and renewest its sight with the fresh gladness of awakening, fill our hearts with Thy radiance and gird us anew with strength to bear lightly our joys and our sorrows, and in making us fruitful in Thy service grant that we may never bend the knee to the insolence of might.

Raise our thoughts high above life's daily trifles into the free realm of the spirit, where the mind knows no fear, where words come from the depths of truth, where tireless striving stretches eager arms

toward perfection and patient love surrenders to Thy will. Into this heaven of freedom, O Father, may our Nation awake. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Monday December 1 1930

ETERNAL FATHER, whose glory is in all the world, we thank Thee for this day, laden with promise and rich in opportunity arising from the renewal of this fellowship of service. Let Thy fatherly hand be over this Nation; give Thine especial blessing to the President, Vice President, and all in authority over us, that we may dwell secure in peace at home and with all the world. Give to the Members of the Senate implicit trust in Thee for strength and guidance; greatness of heart, that they may touch life wherever lived and make it great; wisdom beyond their wisest thought, transcending human experience, yielded by no human discipline; and integrity of purpose in the face of every task.

May Thy spirit without measure quicken into new life and hope all who are oppressed and overborne with care; may it permeate every sphere of human activity, that truth may banish falsehood and a passion for the common weal consume all dross of unworthy ambition. Let this be to us a day of days, that when the twilight fills the quiet sea's dead face with creeping shadows and the white silence brims the hollow of the hills we may eastward turn and homeward to the rest that shall be ours, saying, "Day that I loved, the night is here, enshrining in its purple folds the splendor of another dawn." Grant this, O Father, for the sake of Him who is the dayspring from on high, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Tuesday December 2 1930

O LORD JESUS CHRIST, who in the days of Thy youth wast found in the temple sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them and asking them questions, give us a true perspective in all things pertaining to the great issues of our times, that

being men of deep convictions, devoted to our trust we may ignore each fragmentary impulse, irrelevant obsession, and vagrant aspiration that hinders the sovereignty of right. Lead us to that highway where the spell of lesser loyalties is broken by a clear compelling vision and the sweeping winds of divine purpose add to the content of our thought the note of spiritual sublimity and moral might. All of which we ask in Thy name and for Thy sake. Amen.

Wednesday December 3 1930

ALMIGHTY GOD, who hast given the dawn its inalienable glory, midnight its quenchless stars, noonday its potentialities, and the westering sun its vesper hymn, speak to these hearts of ours, woven as they are of human joys and cares, washed with sorrow, swift to mirth, like waters blown by changing winds to laughter, that dawn and sunset and all colors of the earth may yield to us their richest store through the kindness of the years. Light Thou our way with flaming love along the viewless streams that bear us down the dark of life, that we may beacon the world's night and set to pulsing music the unthinking silence men call death.

So in the hush of this our tryst with Thee
Speak to our hearts, dear Lord, and set them free.

Amen.

Monday December [illegible] 1930

O GOD, our refuge and strength, whose compassions fail not and whose mercy reacheth into the world's end, keep us, we beseech Thee, under the protection of Thy good providence, that by Thy mighty aid we may be defended in all dangers and adversities whensoever they oppress us.

Pardon what we have been, sanctify what we are, order what we shall be, that without let or hindrance we may serve Thee in our generation by contending fearlessly for the right against all evil and oppression, making reverent use of our

freedom to the maintenance of justice among men and nations and to the glory of Thy holy name. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Tuesday December 9 1930

ETERNAL FATHER, who requirest of Thy children that they do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly before Thee, hearken to our prayer in behalf of all mankind. Quicken the life of dreaming, hope-flushed youth with the indwelling of Thy purpose and lead all weary, disillusioned men from the tragic scenes of unequal strife into the green pastures of divine care, where love rises on the dewy hills of promise.

Through Thy word made flesh Thou hast touched poverty, clothing it with power; do Thou also touch all work and industry, making them sacraments of human fellowship, that the dignity and majesty of life may be found in the divine motives that sweep the souls of men upward to their sublime destiny.

Enable us, Thy servants, to speak the word which cheers without deluding, comforts without weakening, and kindles hope without deceiving; that word which is the veritable outflowing of broad streams of strength and sympathy, whose springs are hidden far beyond their apparent source in the eternal hills of God. All of which we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Monday December 15 1930

ALMIGHTY GOD, who hast created all things for Thyself, and through Thy Son, Jesus Christ, hast summoned us to share in Thy redemptive plan, lead us past the barriers of fear to the furnace of flaming purity where all falsehood, sin, and cowardice, like dross, are purged away. Give to our work qualities instinct with life, by which alone our actions bear the unforgeable impress of our personality and we retain our sense of the dignity of humble toil, the value of life's daily ministries.

Grant that we may look out upon the world with our own eyes—the eyes wherewith we saw the Christ and were made glad—till the common path becomes a shining trail whose end is God, where we walk in blest communion with our fellow men. So fit us for the day's most pressing needs, we dare not ask for less; and whatsoever else Thou knowest we should have, bestow it in Thy love. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Wednesday December 17 1930

ETERNAL AND EVER BLESSED GOD, who hast made the world without and hast planted Thine own image within our hearts, inspire and guide with Thy spirit these Thy servants, the few among the many, endowed with high positions, with command and influence, with gifts and resources of power, to the end that they may be found faithful stewards of Thy bounty. Lead them ever by integrity and wisdom to such conceptions and decisions as shall meet the exactions of the days that press upon us and tend to the furtherance of the welfare of Thy people and the spread of Thine own kingdom. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Thursday December 18 1930

O THOU who in the time of shadow and darkness art revealed as the only true and lasting light, and before whose incomprehensible being even the imagination of man falters, fluttering her pennons vain, lighten our darkness, we beseech Thee, as again we bow before the mystery of death, which maketh life to seem but a mote in the faultless glory, a ripple on the eternal calm.

In Thy loving wisdom Thou hast seen fit to take unto Thyself the soul of our beloved friend, whose patient courage, gentle courtesy, and constant devotion to his sacred trust have endeared him to us all; grant to him, therefore, in Thy blest abode, that rest remaining for the children of God, where

pain shall be no more and all sorrow and sighing shall flee away. Vouchsafe unto his loved ones Thy tenderest mercies, that in Thine own sheltering arms they may find that peace and comfort which the world can not give, which passeth all understanding.

We ask it in the name and for the sake of Him who hath brought life and immortality to light, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Friday December 19 1930

ALMIGHTY GOD, who through Thy blessed Son hast taught us when we pray to say "Our Father," as we enter Thy very audience chamber, where we take refuge from the worthlessness of the world and the baseness of our own hearts, comfort us, though the air of the world be tremulous with anguish, with the assurance that prayer is helplessness casting itself on power, it is misery seeking peace, it is hatred desiring love. Satisfy us, as we feel the insufficiency of our mortal life, with the knowledge that prayer is corruption panting for immortality, it is the eagle soaring heavenward, it is the dove returning home. Empower us, though sin enthralls and buffeting cares oppress, with the confidence that prayer is the prisoner pleading for release, it is the mariner steering for the haven amid the dangerous storm, it is the soul escaping to the empyrean, bathing its ruffled plumage in the ethereal and the divine.

Hear us for the sake of Him in whom mercy and truth have met together, righteousness and peace have kissed each other, Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord. Amen.

Saturday December 20 1930

O THOU who in the long ago wast born in David's town and cradled in a manger, before whom shepherds bowed and kings did homage, bringing precious gifts; make us glad with holy joy at this blessed

Christmastide as there floats upon the air the echo of the heavenly antiphon, "Peace on earth, to men of good will."

Lead us by Thy guiding star to the object of our quest, that in the dimpled flesh of babes we may find the secret of God's love. Sanctify our homes and shepherd all the homeless; purify our lives and gird us with humility; quicken noble thoughts and make our hearts Thy dwelling, that Thou being born again in us, we, as Thy messengers, may proclaim to all the world that hope may spring in unstained radiance from the lowliest of lives. We ask it in Thy holy name and for Thine own dear sake. Amen.

Monday January 5 1931

ALMIGHTY AND EVERLASTING GOD, OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, Thou who hast been our refuge from one generation to another and in whose sight a thousand years are but as yesterday, seeing that is past as a watch in the night, grant to us Thy children at this the dawn of another year that, rising with winged heart to meet the changing seasons, we may march in rhythmic majesty with life's procession and in proud submission to Thy will toward the goal of our glorious destiny among the nations of the world.

If in the coming days Thou wouldst have us walk betimes with sorrow when the hosannas of our home are hushed with loved ones gathered to their rest, when the palm trees of life's garden are withered and all our days are dread, then comfort us with the thought that as the wind speaks not more sweetly to the giant oaks than to the least of all the blades of grass, so he alone is great who turns the voice of sorrow into a song made sweet by the whisper of Thy love.

All of which we ask in the name and for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Monday January 26 1931

BLESSED ART THOU, O LORD, for that Thou hast called us to this ministry, in which we dedicate anew our desires and hopes, our powers and our very life unto the holy and loving service of our God and of our country. May it be our pain to lose Thee, our only gain to love Thee more and more. Bestow upon us whatsoever Thou seest we need and make us fit to receive the good Thou desirest to give.

Help us to realize that life without urge is darkness, that urge without knowledge is blind, that knowledge without work is vain, that work without love is empty, and that though we speak with the tongues of men and of angels and love not our message we do but muffle the ears of men to the voices of the day and the gentle whispers of the night. Grant to us, therefore, that the words of our mouth and the meditations of our heart may be now and always acceptable unto Thee, O Lord, our Strength and our Redeemer. Amen.

Tuesday February 17 1931

ALMIGHTY GOD, OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, in knowledge of whom standeth our eternal life, whose service is perfect freedom, grant that through Thy blessed Son we may know Thee as Thou art and learn to serve Thee wisely in our generation. Thou hast called us to forsake the world that we may know how to approach it, to lose the world that we may know how to possess it, and to hate the world that we may know how to love it.

Enable us, therefore, in these trying days to draw the deflected activity of our common life into its true course by fighting those forces which urge men to their ruin and to give ourselves heroically for the good of all because of our world's great need, that by so doing we may become leaders in the armies of friendship, baring, if need be, the heart of fellowship to the spears of hate, in imitation of Him who, renouncing ease and safety, embraced

the worst this world could do that He might stand with His lost brethren in their extremity.

Grant this for His sake, the Maker of the hills, the Master of wind and tide, the Saviour of mankind, who once lay helpless on a maiden's breast, and once again upon a cross, Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord. Amen.

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